

Message Text

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ACTION SMI-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 NSF-04 SCI-06 L-03 RSC-01 DRC-01

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P 261542Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4766

UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 9271

DEPT PASS SMITHSONIAN FOR DR. BERYL B. SIMPSON, DEPT. OF
BOTANY; NSF

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TBIO, US, AR

SUBJECT: PROPOSED SMITHSONIAN FIELD TRIP TO ARGENTINA

REF: SIMPSON DEC.12 LTR. TO WILCOX

1. EMBASSY REGRETS THAT CUSTOMS CLEARANCE OF SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT ARRIVING VIA AIR FREIGHT WILL NOT RPT NOT BE SIMPLE OR QUICK MATTER. EVEN IF EMBASSY COULD APPROACH FONOFF ON BASIS THAT EQUIPMENT FOR EMBASSY USE, ESTIMATE 3-4 WEEKS NEEDED TO OBTAIN FONOFF APPROVAL AND CLEAR CUSTOMS. IT DOES NOT RPT NOT APPEAR THAT EVEN THIS ROUTE FEASIBLE, HOWEVER.

2. BEST AND LOGICAL WAY FOR PROJECT OF THIS NATURE TO WORK HERE IS UNDER US/ARGENTINE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT. THIS REQUIRES ARGENTINE COUNTERPART AND APPROVAL OF PROJECT BY EXECUTIVE AGENCIES FOR TWO COUNTRIES- NSF IN US AND FOREIGN OFFICE HERE. FREE ENTRY AND EXIT OF SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT PROVIDED FOR UNDER THIS AGREEMENT. EDUARDO FELLER OR DUNCAN CLEMENT OF NSF CAN FURNISH DETAILS ON PROCEDURES.

3. EMBASSY PREPARED ASSIST TO EXPEDITE ARGENTINE APPROVAL OF THIS PROJECT UNDER S&T BILATERAL IF NSF SO REQUESTS. REALISTICALLY, HOWEVER, MUST ADVISE THAT THIS WILL ALSO TAKE CONSIDERABLE TIME IN VIEW OF (A) NEED FOR PROPER COORDINATION
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WITH ARGENTINE COUNTERPART; (B) NEED FOR PROPER DOCUMENTATION

TO BE APPROVED BY FONOFF AND BY SECRETARY OF S&T IN MINISTRY
OF EDUCATION; (C) THE JANUARY-FEBRUARY ARGENTINE VACATION PERIOD;
(D) THE POSSIBILITY THAT POLITICAL FACTORS WILL AFFECT THE
ARGENTINE DECISION.

4. IN VIEW OF ABOVE, SIMPSON MAY BE WELL ADVISED TO POSTPONE
OR CANCEL PROJECT DEPENDING ON THIS TIMING REQUIREMENTS OR
ARRANGE TO PAY FULL DUTY ON EQUIPMENT.

5. EMBASSY SINCERELY WISHES ENCOURAGE PROJECT OF THIS NATURE
AND WILL DO ALL IT CAN TO ASSIST SMITHSONIAN AND SIMPSON IN
WHATEVER COURSE IS DECIDED UPON.
KREBS

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